

## III.—On Three new Mammals from South Africa.

By R. C. WROUGHTON.

IN a small collection of mammals recently presented to the Natural History Museum by Mr. C. W. Turner, of Good Hope, near Aberfeldy, in the north-east of the Orange River Colony, there are three specimens of an *Otomys* which differs from any form hitherto described.

*Otomys Turneri*, sp. n.

An *Otomys* of the general form of *O. Sloggetti*, but slightly larger and paler.

Fur long and soft; 17–20 mm., against 10–12 mm. in *O. Sloggetti*.

General colour above between “raw umber” and tawny olive; the individual hairs “slate-grey,” with a “clay-coloured” tip (5 mm.), but a certain small proportion of them, of greater length, with black tips (5–10 mm.).

Under surface “pinkish buff”; the hairs with slaty bases. Hands and feet silvery white; hairs on tail, like those on back, markedly longer than in *O. Sloggetti*; in the latter the hairs of its upper surface are coloured black, whereas in *O. Turneri* all are dull white except a few on the median line, above, towards the end.

Skull and dentition in all essential characters the same as in *O. Sloggetti*, but upper molar row distinctly larger and nasals more spatulate (6·5 mm. at broadest, instead of 5 mm. in *O. Sloggetti*).

Dimensions of type specimen:—

Head and body 134 mm.; tail 49; hind foot 24; ear 17.

Skull: greatest length 35; basilar length 29; zygomatic breadth 19; length of upper molar series 8·5; bullæ 7·5.

*Hab.* Aberfeldy, N.E. Orange River Colony. Alt. 3500'.

*Type.* Young male. B.M. no. 7. 5. 25. 5. Original number 27. Collected on 9th July, 1906.

Only one of the three specimens sent has a skull, and unfortunately it is the youngest. Though young, however, the type is adult, and the skull-dimensions given above may be accepted as practically normal for the species, but the body-measurements are small. The largest of the three specimens measured head and body 160 mm. and tail 59; this was almost certainly a fully-grown animal.

This new species is undoubtedly very close to *O. Sloggetti*, from which, however, it is separable externally by its longer

fur, paler general colour, white feet and longer hind feet, and by the skull having broadened spatulate nasals and a longer upper molar tooth-row.

In my key to this genus (published in this Magazine in October last, p. 266) the last section under *A. a*<sup>1</sup> might now stand as follows :—

*b*<sup>3</sup>. All four laminae of *m*<sub>1</sub> complete; tail short and slender.

*a*<sup>4</sup>. Fur long; hind foot 24 mm.; upper molar series 8·5 mm. (O.R.C.) . . . . . *O. Turneri*, sp. n.

*b*<sup>4</sup>. Fur short; hind foot 22 mm.; upper molar series 7·5 mm. (Deelfontein.) . . . . . *O. Sloggetti*, Thos.

In order to compare a specimen of *Pedetes* contained in Mr. Turner's collection, I had occasion to lay out all the specimens available in the Museum, with the result that it became at once apparent that there are at least three local races of the South-African *Pedetes cafer* separable on colour-characters. They are distinguishable as follows :—

A. Tail dark above; paler below than above, but not white; ears (*circ.*) 75 mm. (Cape Colony.) . . . . . *P. cafer*.

B. Tail pale above, white below.

*a*. General colour above "wood-brown"; ears longer, (*circ.*) 75 mm. (O.R. Colony.) . . . . . *P. c. orange*.

*b*. General colour above redder, nearest to "vinaceous cinnamon," but darker; ears shorter, (*circ.*) 70 mm. (N. Transvaal.) . . . . . *P. c. salina*.

The following are descriptions of the new subspecies :—

*Pedetes cafer orange*, subsp. n.

Size and general characters as in true *P. cafer*.

General colour above "wood-brown." Hairs on the shoulders and back pale slate-coloured at their bases, then "pinkish buff" with black tips; a small proportion of wholly black hairs sparsely scattered among the others. (In all three forms the slaty bases, black tips, and scattered black hairs disappear on the lower back, rump, and tail.) Colour below pure white, the hairs white to their bases. Tail above coloured like the rump, below pure white (except a discoloured area near the base); tip for about 100 mm. black above and below.

Skull-characters as in true *P. cafer*.

Dimensions of type :—

Head and body 400 mm.; tail 410; hind foot 130; ear 75.

Skull: upper length 89; basilar length 62; zygomatic breadth 57.

*Type.* Adult female. B.M. no. 7. 5. 25. 11. Original number 24. Collected by Mr. C. W. Turner on 27th February, 1906.

*Hab.* Aberfeldy Dist., O.R.C.

Other specimens from Ladybrand and Vredefort show that this form extends all over the Orange River Colony, and even to Bechuanaland.

*Pedetes cafer salinæ*, subsp. n.

Size and general characters as in true *P. cafer*.

General colour above as in *P. cafer*, though slightly paler, much redder than in *P. c. orangeæ*; the ground-colour of the hairs "vinaceous cinnamon" rather than "pinkish buff," and the proportion of black greater. The underside quite as in *P. c. orangeæ*.

Skull-characters as in true *P. cafer*.

Dimensions of type:—

Head and body 398 mm.; tail 464; hind foot 144; ear 70.

Skull: upper length 90; basilar length 63; zygomatic breadth 57.

*Type.* Adult female. B.M. no. 6. 4. 3. 86. Original number 1345. Collected by Mr. C. H. B. Grant on 30th December, 1905, and presented to the Museum by Mr. C. D. Rudd.

*Hab.* Woodbush, Zoutpansberg Dist., N.W. Transvaal.

Two other specimens taken at the same time and place do not materially differ from the type.

IV.—*Descriptions of new Species of African Spiders and Solifugæ.* By A. S. HIRST.

*Pterinochilus Hindei*, sp. n.

♂.—*Cephalothorax* equal in length to patella, tibia, and tarsus of maxillipalp and considerably shorter than patella and tibia of fourth leg. Ocular tubercle considerably longer than broad, the clypeus narrow.

*Legs.* 4, 1, 2, 3. Metatarsus of first leg sinuate, with the distal end slightly thickened, and leaving but little space between metatarsus and spur of tibia when closed on tibia; tibia of first leg more slender than femur. Patella and tibia